

# Understanding THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC



NPS feed on January 17, 2018 at 10:00 p.m.

## PROGRAM FACT SHEET

One of the most troubling and potentially lethal health issues in our country today is the abuse of prescription painkillers. It is one of the fastest growing public health problems in the nation. Nearly 1 out of 4 young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 have either abused or are addicted to prescription painkillers. Beyond the shocking statistics is the impact on young people, families and communities.

*Understanding the Opioid Epidemic* is a one-hour documentary, and community education and engagement initiative. The program combines stories of people and communities impacted by this epidemic along with information from experts and those at the frontlines of dealing with the epidemic. The program will trace the history of how the nation got into this situation and provide possible solutions and directions for dealing with the crisis. This initiative includes an extensive website, a community engagement toolkit, and education materials.

### Website

The website for *Understanding the Opioid Epidemic* is based on learning more about this timely, important issue. The site houses the full documentary, bonus video clips, education materials, and community engagement resources including a digital community engagement toolkit.

**[www.pbs.org/understandingopioids](http://www.pbs.org/understandingopioids)**

### Community Engagement Toolkit

A collection of digital resources is also available on the project website. The digital toolkit includes:

- Customizable production posters
- Screening event invitations
- Family and community discussion guide
- Overview of curriculum resources
- Suggested social media posts
- Digital file of program

### Education Materials

Classroom curriculum for use with students in grades 7-12 covers themes such as misperception of opioid safety, community awareness, brain science, stigma, and the struggles associated with treatment and recovery. Videos, images, and classroom content is available now on [pbslearningmedia.org](http://pbslearningmedia.org) and the [www.pbs.org/understandingopioids](http://www.pbs.org/understandingopioids) website.

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Funding has been provided by BlueCross BlueShield Association and the Brain Research Foundation.